

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A method for reducing IgE concentrations in the blood of a patient suffering from a disease comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an  
5 antibiotic composition.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said patient is suffering from allergic asthma.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said antibiotic is a tetracycline.
- 10 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of tetracycline, rolitetracycline, oxytetracycline, chlorotetracycline, democlocycline, meclocycline, methacycline, doxycycline and minocycline.
- 15 5. The method of claim 3 wherein said antibiotic comprises tetracycline or minocycline.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein said antibiotic comprises a combination of tetracycline and minocycline.
- 20 7. The method of claim 4 wherein said antibiotic comprises doxycycline.
8. The method of claim 4 wherein said antibiotic comprises a combination of doxycycline and minocycline.
- 25 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered orally.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of  
30 antibiotic is administered in an amount of about 1 to about 300 mg/day.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered parenterally.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered in an amount of about 1 to about 300 mg/day.
13. The method of claim 3 wherein said tetracycline is present in an amount between about 25 mg and about 100 mg.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
15. A method of treating asthma in a patient comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antibiotic composition.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein said antibiotic is a tetracycline.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein said antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of tetracycline, rolitetracycline, oxytetracycline, chlorotetracycline, democlocycline, meclocycline, methacycline, doxycycline and minocycline.
18. The method of claim 16 wherein said antibiotic comprises tetracycline or minocycline.
19. The method of claim 17 wherein said antibiotic comprises a combination of tetracycline and minocycline.
20. The method of claim 17 wherein said antibiotic comprises a combination of doxycycline and minocycline.
21. The method of claim 15 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered orally.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered in an amount of about 1 to about 300 mg/day.
- 5 23. The method of claim 15 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered parenterally.
24. The method of claim 23 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of antibiotic is administered in an amount of about 1 to about 300 mg/day.
- 10 25. The method of claim 16 wherein said tetracycline is present in an amount between about 25 mg and about 100 mg.
26. The method of claim 15 wherein said composition further comprises a  
15 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
27. A method of monitoring the effectiveness of a drug in lowering the concentration of IgE in the plasma of a mammal suffering from a disease comprising:
- 20 a) making an initial determination of the concentration of IgE in the plasma at a first time in said mammal;
- b) administering an effective amount of a drug which lowers IgE concentration in the plasma;
- c) making a determination of the concentration of IgE in the plasma at a time subsequent to the initial determination; and
- 25 d) comparing the values obtained from the first and second determination wherein if the value of the second determination of the free IgE level is higher than or about the same as the first determination and above a threshold level, then the dosage amount of the drug is increased.
- 30 28. The method of claim 27 wherein said drug is a tetracycline.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said tetracycline is minocycline or doxycycline or a combination thereof.